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The University of Montana

NEWS RELEASE

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April 30, 1996

PHOTOGRAPHER OF WOMEN'S STRUGGLES VISITS UM

MISSOULA--

A photographer who has devoted her career to recording the struggles of women from warring Northern Ireland to post-coup Chile will highlight a weeklong series of public discussions at The University of Montana—Missoula and in the local community Monday through Thursday, May 6-9.

Photographer Paula Allen will use slides of her work to discuss her commitment to women's empowerment and photography's role in recording and preserving the history and experiences of women. The free lecture series, "Out of the Shadows: Documenting Women's Struggles, Developing Women's Knowledge," will spotlight Allen's seven-year project documenting the search by women in Calama, Chile, for the bodies of relatives who "disappeared" after the 1973 coup. Bruni Rodriguez of Calama, one of the leaders of that search, will visit UM with Allen.

UM social work Professor Janet Finn met the two women while doing field work in northern Chile in 1992. She will join them in discussing the events that brought them together in Calama, the relationships they have developed and the cross-cultural understanding they have fostered.

The series opens Monday with a slide presentation, "Documenting Women's Struggles: The Power of Image and Intimacy." Allen will give a historical perspective of her work, from her coverage of the 1980 Women's Pentagon Action for Newsweek to her long-term work with women in Belfast, Calama and New York City. The event begins at 3:40 p.m. in Social Science Building Room 352.

In the past 17 years, Allen's photographs have been published in U.S. News and World Report,

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The New York Times Magazine, the London Independent Magazine, Newsweek, Ms. Magazine, Paris Match and the Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine. She has covered international events including the 1981 birth of Solidarity in Poland and the 1989 dismantling of the Berlin Wall.

In 1991, Allen received a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship for her photographs of the "Irish Travelers" (gypsies) living in Belfast, Northern Ireland. While covering the war in Northern Ireland during the past decade, Allen has been documenting the adolescent traveler girls, living with them and their families in crowded caravan sites.

Other scheduled events are:

- Global Forum with Allen as guest speaker, 7:30 p.m. Monday at Hunter Bay Coffee Roasters, 225 W. Front St. Allen will share slides of "The Irish Travelers."

- "The Women of Calama," slides and a discussion of women's search for truth and justice in northern Chile, by Allen, Rodriguez and Finn at 7:10 p.m. Tuesday in Journalism Room 304.

- Allen and Rodriguez will present another slide discussion with the same title at a potluck dinner sponsored by the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center Thursday at University Congregational Church. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the free presentation at 7:30 p.m. Please bring \$3 or a dish to share if coming for dinner.

The series is presented by the UM Department of Social Work in conjunction with the Montana Committee for the Humanities and the UM Visiting Scholars Program.

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Contact: Janet Finn, UM social work professor, 243-6510.

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Local, pics to newspapers

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